

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for handling network accounting information, comprising:

- (a) receiving records indicative of network events from an input source;
- (b) storing data associated with the records in a table, wherein the table includes a plurality of rows each containing a plurality of columns each including data of a different type, the data of each of the rows expiring after a predetermined time period;
- (c) selecting action events based on the input source; and
- (d) executing the selected action events on the records;
- (e) wherein at least one of the action events is executed to delete the data of each of the rows upon expiring;
- (f) wherein multiple action events are executed in parallel;
- (g) wherein the action events operate on the network accounting information and are selected from the group consisting of usage metering, reading, tracking, correlating, and aggregating;
- (h) wherein the execution of the selected action events includes: discarding records stored during the execution of previous action events, parsing configuration data associated with the selected action events, and utilizing the parsed configuration data to repeat at least one of operations (a)-(d);
- (i) wherein a configuration event defines a plurality of action events by specifying code capable of executing each action event.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for handling network accounting information of any type, comprising:

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